

Barber, Anthony

From: Barber, Anthony
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 4:11 PM
To: Cathy Leece
Subject: RE: Air Quality Issue with Bullseye Glass in SE Portland, Oregon

Categories: Glass Air Toxics

Dear Ms. Leece,

Thanks for reaching out to me. As a father (and a grandfather of a 4 year old girl too) I appreciate your sharing your concerns. Over the last several days I have been asking many of the same questions as you do in your email. I have been in contact with numerous people and organizations, such as Oregon DEQ, Oregon and Multnomah Health, ATSDR, various EPA program offices, etc. It may be quite a few more days before some of those questions get answered. As unsatisfying as that may be to both of us, I can share the following, much of which you may already know.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is collecting additional air samples in the affected area, and is working collaboratively with EPA and other government offices to determine potential health impacts and needed protection. We at EPA are being kept well informed about this developing situation and we are ready to support and assist ODEQ as needed. Federally, EPA and ATSDR are evaluating these findings as they develop in relation to EPA health standards. Additional information from ODEQ, including a link to the air sampling data can be found at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/nwr/metalsemissions.htm>. I understand that DEQ's initial findings are that the monthly average is about 49 times greater than the state air toxics benchmark for cadmium and about 159 times the state air toxics benchmark for arsenic. I also know that the question of additional pollutants beyond cadmium and arsenic has been raised and people are at work to answer that question.

We at EPA Region 10 are looking at our records to identify other potential sources in the affected area. We are also comparing federal regional screening levels (RSL) with the ODEQ state health benchmarks in relation to the amount of contamination found in the study. In addition to EPA, the ATSDR is working with DEQ, OHA and Multnomah County Health to communicate the potential impact on the community from the monitored levels of contamination. ODEQ is keeping EPA informed of their actions to monitor the situation and exposure levels. As of last Friday, February 5th, additional monitoring was proceeding at nearby schools and day care centers. Requests for additional monitoring resources have been made.

In terms of EPA regulation of Bullseye Glass, when the relevant area source rules were adopted in 2007, art glass manufacturers were not thought to be a source of significant emissions. However we are looking at the information we have, and will be looking at what next steps are needed based on the recent issues identified near Bullseye Glass in Portland, and within the national and industry-wide context.

As a public servant and as a fellow member of the Portland-area community I understand that uncertainty is very frustrating and I am committed to working to reduce it and to work with ODEQ and others to help you and your community get the information you need. Thanks again for your contact.

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From: Cathy Leece [mailto: (b) (6)]

Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 1:53 PM

To: Barber, Anthony

Cc: danschwoerer@bullseyeglass.com; debiwali@bullseyeglass.com

Subject: Air Quality Issue with Bullseye Glass in SE Portland, Oregon

Dear Anthony Barber,

I am a resident and homeowner at (b) (6), just one block north (b) (6). I live with my husband and our four year old daughter. My husband and I have lived here for sixteen years, and my young daughter her whole life. Our house is located less than a quarter mile from Bullseye Glass, the source for the high levels of cadmium and arsenic detected in the area. As you can imagine, I am consumed with fear over the air sample results that DEQ made public earlier this week.

Given my sixteen years at this location, I am very concerned about potential long term exposure to these toxic air pollutants. While I find some peace with the self stated claim that Bullseye, at least the time being, is no longer using materials containing cadmium and arsenic in their processes. However, I am very worried about the ramifications that the long term exposure of these toxic air pollutants will have on my family and neighbors. Actually, worried doesn't describe how I've been feeling these past few days. I am more horrified than worried to learn of the alarming levels of cadmium and arsenic detected so close to my home. My husband and I have had many sleepless nights and at times the fear seems all consuming.

I know we are still in the very early stages of these findings, and I am trying to remind myself that I must try to stay positive and hope that things aren't as bad as they sound, for the sake of my family. However this is a challenge, seeing that the fear is just so debilitating at times.

In just a matter of days, I have gone from thinking that I am extremely lucky and fortunate to be living in such a great neighborhood to feeling that I may have possibly spent the last sixteen years of my life (for both my husband and myself, not to mention the early years of my daughter's life) living within an area exposed to **hazardous levels of toxic air pollutants that exceed risk screening values by orders of magnitude** and that may well effect the overall health of my family. In the last three days I have had to weather an array of unpleasant comments from friends and acquaintances such as "Aren't you horrified with the results that were found so close to your house", or "I'm so glad I live so far away from the source (i.e. Bullseye)", to "I'm so glad I don't live in your neighborhood". Needless to say, I'm not feeling particularly lucky these days. Not to mention the very real anxieties that I have about possible decreased property values in the effected areas.

I am very concerned about other additional air toxics, hazardous materials and hazardous waste that Bullseye may be releasing into my neighborhood. DEQ needs to implement ongoing monitoring of Bullseye and its processes. DEQ also needs to conduct a more comprehensive study identifying other potentially hazardous air pollutants that Bullseye may be releasing at unacceptable levels. I don't believe cadmium and arsenic are the only metals or air toxics that are being released at unacceptable levels or concentrations. Unfortunately, we can not turn back the clock. But I am hoping that we will gain a more realistic picture of what the exposure risks might look like for residents in the affected areas. The fall out will certainly be significant if the risk of exposure turns out to be high.

Regardless of where the debate of past exposure heads, residents need to feel safe again. I can't say at this time I feel safe. We have elected you to be our voice and we are depending on you to communicate our concerns, fears, and worry to those responsible for defending public health. I need to be assured that measures have been placed on Bullseye to keep all emissions in check REGARDLESS of the permitting process. This is the responsibility of DEQ and EPA.

I would also like to see representatives from Bullseye engaging with the community. I would like them to know that the amount of fear and anxiety my family and neighbors are experiencing is very real. For me personally, knowing or unknowing, I hold them directly responsible.

Lastly and undoubtedly, there are issues surrounding permits and regulations. Reportedly, Bullseye is in compliance with their air permits? How is it possible that they can be in compliance with the requirements of their permit, yet at the same time, release such high concentrations of cadmium and arsenic (not to mention other unidentified air toxics), levels that are clearly above the Oregon risk-based human health bench marks. This is a clear failure of our regulatory system to protect the health and well being of the public. Portland, Oregon is a beautiful place to live and raise a family. Please help us to protect ourselves and preserve this place so that my daughter isn't writing this same letter 20 or 30 years from now.

As my representative, I urge you to advocate on behalf of myself, my family and neighbors and put pressure on Bullseye, DEQ and EPA to resolve these serious issues.

Thank you for your time,

Cathy Leece